

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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R 070820Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1773

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION: IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - PRESIDENT CHIANG'S DEATH PREEMPTED ALL OTHER MEDIA CONCERNS. AMID GREAT ACCLAIM FOR A DEPARTED LEADER THE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER WAS NOTED. PROMINENT TREATMENT WAS ALSO GIVEN STATEMENTS FROM PRESIDENT FORD, AMBASSADOR UNGER AND REMARKS BY OTHER U.S. FIGURES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT CHIANG'S DEATH LATE NIGHT APRIL 5 REPORTED IN BANNER HEADLINES BY ALL APRIL 6 MORNING PAPERS ALONG WITH HIS WILL URGING MAINLAND RECOVERY AND STEADFAST ANTICOMMUNIST STAND. ALL PAPERS AND TV STATIONS DISCONTINUED USING COLOR WITH NO ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS APPEARING ON TV APRIL 6-7. MOVIE THEATERS REPORTED CLOSED ISLANDWIDE AND GENERAL MORATORIUM ON PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT AND ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED UNTIL MAY 5. U.S. TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMAND'S RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. MOVIE THEATERS, MILITARY CLUBS AND RELATED ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES ALSO PROMINENTLY

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REPORTED.

3. ALL PAPERS APRIL 7 BANNERED WITH PHOTOS SWEARING-IN OF C. K. YEN AS PRESIDENT WITH ALL PAPERS EDITORIALY URGING PEOPLE TO CONVERT THEIR SORROW INTO STRENGTH TO CARRY ON UNFINISHED TASKS LEFT BY PRESIDENT CHIANG. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) PRAISED ROC CONSTITUTION, AS INITIATED BY PRESIDENT CHIANG, ENABLING SMOOTH TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION TO VICE PRESIDENT YEN.

4. PAPERS APRIL 7 ALSO FRONTPAGED PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S APRIL 6 PROFORMA RESIGNATION, KMT'S QUICK REQUEST THAT HE STAY ON AS PREMIER AND HIS DECISION TO COMPLY.

5. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS APRIL 6 NOTED: "... HE (PRESIDENT CHIANG) ALSO PREPARED WELL FOR THIS MOMENT OF TERRIBLE BEREAVEMENT. THERE IS NO CRISIS OF SUCCESSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE EXECUTIVE REINS PASS INTO THE CAPABLE HANDS OF VICE PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN. PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO, THE PRESIDENT'S ELDER SON, IS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE HELM. MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK REMAINS A TOWER OF STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE FOR THE NATION, JUST AS SHE HAS BEEN FOR ALL THESE YEARS AT HER HUSBAND'S SIDE..."

6. ALL PAPERS APRIL 7 PROMINENTLY REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD'S AND AMBASSADOR UNGER. AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT FILMED BY TELEVISION STATIONS AT EMBASSY AND REPEATEDLY TELEVISED APRIL 6. ALSO REPEATEDLY BROADCAST BY U.S. ARMED FORCES RADIO NETWORK HEARD THROUGHOUT MUCH OF TAIWAN.

7. OTHER REMARKS REPORTED FROM U.S. FIGURES INCLUDED: SENATORS HUMPHREY AND SPARKMAN, FORMER AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND STATE'S BURT LEVIN. WASHINGTON OFFICIALS PROMINENTLY REPORTED AS REAFFIRMING NO EXPECTATION OF CHANGES IN U.S.-ROC RELATIONS. UNITED DAILY NEWS, CHINA TIME (280,000) AND TELEVISION STATIONS CARRIED PHOTOS OR FOOTAGE OF TAIPEI U.S. EMBASSY WITH FLAG AT HALF-STAFF.

8. UNITED DAILY NEWS CARRIED APRIL 7 TELEPHONED REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT COMET SHIH THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS WRITTEN PREMIER CHIANG EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES, AND REPORTED REMARKS BY GENERAL WEDEMEYER AND ADMIRAL MCCAIN.

9. CHINA TIME'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JACK CHOW REPORTED PROFUSE U.S. MEDIA REACTION WITH EMPHASIS ON CHINESE PEOPLE'S FORBEARANCE AND CONFIDENCE, PARTICULARLY

AS REPORTED BY NEW YORK TIMES FROM TAIPEI.

10. PAPERS SAID TAIPEI MAYOR CHANG FENG-SHU CUTTING  
SHORT AN AMERICAN TRIP AND WOULD NOT ATTEND SCHEDULED  
MEETING IN HONOLULU; PINGTUNG MAGISTRATE KO WEN-FOO,  
CU GRANTEE, REPORTEDLY CANCELLED HIS TRIP AND WAS  
RETURNING FROM TOKYO.  
VLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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